

REMARKS

Claims 1-67 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,497,482 to Hwa (the '482 patent).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has rejected claim 1, *inter alia*, over the '482 patent. The Examiner asserts that Hwa refers to emulsion polymerization processes involving a monomer which is an ammonium phosphate ester zwitterionic monomer. This is not correct. Nowhere does Hwa disclose an ammonium phosphate ester zwitterionic monomer. All Hwa's zwitterionic monomers are ammonium sulphate or sulfonate monomers. There is no disclosure of any monomers comprising phosphate groups, let alone zwitterionic monomers having ammonium and phosphate ester groups. The monomer in Example 4, as can clearly be seen at column 5, line 70, has a sulfonate group. The monomer formed in Example 5, as can clearly be seen in the formula at column 6, line 11, has a sulphate group. Thus the polymerizations conducted in Example 10 (column 7, lines 1 to 16), utilizes an ammonium sulphate or an ammonium sulfonate monomer. Indeed it can be seen from the analysis, that there is 7.02% sulphur atom analyzed in the product. The sulphur atom is derived from the sulphate or sulfonate, as the case may be.

The essential feature of claim 1, that the polymerization involve an ammonium phosphate ester zwitterionic monomer is not disclosed in Hwa. Claim 1 is new.

Claims 2-3, 5, 6 and 8-18 depend from claim 1 and are therefore novel.

LEWIS et al.
Appln. No. 09/987,721
Response

Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that claims 24 to 42 are allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

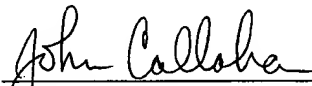
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